

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 176695 TOSEC 080059  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:BH  
APPROVED BY NEA:HHS SAUNDERS  
S/S:FWISNER  
EUR/WE:MR.BROD  
NSC:GSICK  
S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----000118 131655Z /41

O 131650Z JUL 78 ZFF5  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176695 TOSEC 080059

EXDIS - FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, LE, SY, US, VT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO THE POPE'S MESSAGE OF  
JULY 6

1. PLEASE DELIVER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE VATICAN  
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER:

BEGIN TEXT: YOUR HOLINESS:

I SHARE THE CONCERN OF YOUR HOLINESS OVER THE RECENT TRAGIC  
EVENTS IN LEBANON, AND IN PARTICULAR OVER THE HEAVY  
CASUALTIES AMONG THE INNOCENT CIVILIAN POPULATION.

WE WERE EXCEEDINGLY GRATEFUL FOR THE APPEAL ISSUED BY  
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YOUR HOLINESS ON JULY 5, WHICH I BELIEVE HAD A USEFUL  
EFFECT. I SUPPORTED THIS APPEAL IN MY OWN STATEMENT OF  
JULY 6.

YOU CAN BE ASSURED, YOUR HOLINESS, THAT THE UNITED STATES  
IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE CEASE-FIRE IS  
MAINTAINED WHILE A RESOLUTION TO THE LATEST OUTBREAK OF

FIGHTING IS NEGOTIATED PEACEABLY. THE LONG-RANGE ANSWER  
TO LEBANON'S MANY PROBLEMS LIES IN THE STRENGTHENING OF

THE LEGITIMATE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SO THAT IT CAN WIN  
THE CONFIDENCE OF ALL LEBANESE CITIZENS, GAIN CONTROL  
OVER ALL THE ARMED GROUPS IN LEBANON, AND EXTEND AUTHORITY  
AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIS HAS BEEN AND  
WILL REMAIN THE FOCUS OF THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE POPE'S APPEAL DATED JUNE 6:

BEGIN TEXT: TO HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. JIMMY CARTER,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WE ARE PROFOUNDLY PREOCCUPIED BY THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, WHERE SYRIAN MILITARY ACTION  
AND CONSEQUENT BOMBINGS CARRIED OUT FOR FIVE DAYS ON THE  
CHRISTIAN QUARTERS OF BEIRUT, NOT ONLY HAVE PRODUCED  
NUMEROUS VICTIMS AMONG THE POPULATION BUT PLACE IN  
SERIOUS JEOPARDY THE ALREADY WEAK INSTITUTIONS OF THE  
LEGBANESE STATE WITH UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE  
SURVIVAL OF LEBANON ITSELF AND FOR PEACE IN THE REGION.

URGENTLY, I ASK YOUR EXCELLENCY TO PLEASE MAKE USE OF  
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YOUR STRONGEST PERSONAL INFLUENCE WITH THE AUTHORITIES  
OF SYRIA IN ORDER THAT A CESSATION OF THE BOMBARDMENTS OF  
BEIRUT BE ARRANGED IMMEDIATELY IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO  
ESTABLISH A TRUCE WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE PARTIES TO  
SEARCH FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.  
END TEXT.  
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POPE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE176695  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MDRAPER:BH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2018289  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO THE POPE'S MESSAGE OF JULY 6  
**TAGS:** PEPR, MOPS, LE, SY, US, VT  
**To:** ROME  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2f45da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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